

A R E M O N S T R A N C E

Of the sad and deplorable Estate of the

Salt-makers of South and North-sheels, Sunderland, and Blyth, within the Counties of Durham and Northumberland; and of many thousand poor people, whose dependance lies soly upon that Antient Manufacture, Most humbly presented.



That whereas by the Ordinance for uniting *Scotland* into one Commonwealth with *England*. It is Ordained, that all goods for the future shall pass as free, and with the like priviledge, charge, and burden from *England* to *Scotland*, and from *Scotland* to *England*, as goods pass from Port to Port in *England*.

That thereby, that ancient English Manufacture of Salt-making, which hath been so Commodious and useful, and of so much concernment to this Nation, will be wholly carryed into *Scotland*.

For that the *Scots* formerly paid three half pence Excise for every Gallon of Salt they brought into *England*; and the English paid but one half peny per Gallon.

That the chiefeft materials with which Salt is made in *England* and *Scotland*, is Coals; so that they in *Scotland* have their Coals at a far more cheaper Rate then the English, and thereby are able to make their Salt at a much lower Rate then the English can do; For when the Scots did pay the three half pence per Gallon Excise, and the English but one half peny; they were able in regard of the cheapness of their Coals, to sell their Salt as cheap as the English.

That if that peny per Gallon Excise, be wholly taken off the Scottish Salt, and the English pay the same Excise they formerly did, then it will not onely tend to the destruction of the English Manufacture, and the ruine and overthrow of many hundred Families, who have laid out their whole Estates in bringing the same to perfection; but also of many thousand people, who have no other means of subsistence, but by working in the said Manufacture.

The English Manufacture ought to be encouraged for these ensuing Reasons.

That in time of Wars with *Spaine* and *France*, there was such a scarcity of Salt in this Nation, that it was solde at extreme rates (*viz.*) eight, nine, and ten shillings per bushel and upwards; and in many places of *England*, not to be had for any money.

That when peace was concluded between *England* and *France*; the King of *France* made an Edict, that no Salt should be exported out of his Kingdom upon confiscation of Ship, Goods, and life.

That peace being concluded, between *England* and *Spaine*. diverse Merchants of *England*, sent between two and three hundred Saile of Ships to *Spaine*, to fetch Salt for the supply of this Nation: And the King of *Spaine* taking notice of *Englands* necessity thereof; did not onely along time imbarge the said Ships, but did immediately impose such a great Imposition upon his Salt, that it came to the double value of the Salt there sold, whereby the Merchants lost many thousand pounds.

That thereupon, this Nation being in such a strait for want of Salt; they considered how to erect a Native Manufacture in *England*, for supply thereof with Salt, without dependancy upon any Foreign State. And knowing no places so convenient, as those of *South* and *North-sheels*, *Sunderland*, and *Blyth*, &c. Encouragement was given to the ancient Salt-makers there, for erecting more Salt-works, who with the expence of great sums of money, and with much pains and difficulty, did build several Wharfs and Steathes, and placed Salt-pans thereupon.

That after the said Salt-pans were so erected, the late Dean and Chapter of *Durham*, compelled your Petitioners to take Leases of them for the said Wharfs and Salt-pans, and forced them to pay in Annual Rent for the same, which still added to their charge.

That in time of these late distractions and wars, their-Salt works were destroyed and ruined, by the Kings Fortes and the Scots; the rebuilding and repairing thereof, cost them many thousand pounds; and as yet could never have peny towards their sufferings and damages.

That since the rebuilding and repairing of the said Salt-pans: they have been lately compelled to purchase them of the Commonwealth, whereby most of their Estates are engaged, many of them having contracted debts beyond their ability, to pay for their respective purchases.

That by making Salt there's great quantities of course Coales spent at *Newcastle* and *Sunderland*, which are the refuge of their best Coal-mines, and so the owners thereof selling them for that use, are the better enabled to go through with their Coal-mines, and so prevent mixture of those bad with good; which otherwise would be to the great anoyance of the Commonwealth.

That it hath alwayes been the great care and wisdom of all Foreign States and Princes, when they can erect any Native Manufacture within their own jurisdictions (that will give employment to their own Natives) to encourage and support it.

Wherefore, its humbly conceived, some tender care and respect ought to be had of the Salt-makers aforesaid, and of that ancient English Manufacture, that affords a daily livelihood to so many thousand souls within this Nation, who would otherwise starve for want of relief.

That if it be encouraged, its able to supply this Nation with Salt sufficient to preserve both Fish and Flesh, and other victual without dependancy upon any Foreign State: and then be it war or peace, scarcity or plenty, this Commonwealth may be supplied at moderate prices, and many thousands set on work thereby.

That if this Manufacture be destroyed, then this Commonwealth shall be subject to what price or Tax the Scots or other Nations please to lay upon that Commodity which we cannot be without, and then may make advantage of our necessities, having the whole Trade in their powers.

Why should not this so useful a Manufacture be maintained in this Commonwealth, to the honor of the English Nation, and not to the ruine of so many hundred Families, who by former encouragement, have laid out their whole estates to bring the same to perfection; besides the miserable distress that many thousand poor people will be left in, whose whole subsistence consists thereon; and which of necessity will be destroyed, unless some provision be made in the Act of Union for their support.

Its humbly prayed, for these Reasons, the Petition of the Salt-makers of *South* and *North-sheels*, *Sunderland*, and *Blyth*, depending in the hands of a Member of the Honorable House of Parliament, may be taken into speedy consideration.